



**CACCP**

Connecticut Association of Community Pharmacies

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**Testimony of Carrie Rand-Anastasiades  
General Law Committee  
In Opposition to  
HB 5077AAC The Return of Unused Prescription Drugs to Pharmacies**

Good Afternoon Representative Baram, Senator Leone, and Senator Witkos and members of the General Law Committee. My name is Carrie Rand-Anastasiades and I am the Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Community Pharmacies. We represent chain pharmacies around the State such as Walgreens, Rite-Aid, Stop & Shop, and PriceChopper to name a few. I am here today to testify in opposition to HB 5077 AAC The Return of Unused Prescription Drugs to Pharmacies.

Connecticut Association of Community Pharmacies and its members oppose this legislation, which would require pharmacies to accept and dispose of unused prescription drugs. Our members strongly believe that having workable options for consumers to dispose of unwanted drugs is an important issue and favor a VOLUNTARY approach, not a mandatory one. Chain pharmacies have been extremely proactive and have hosted and promoted community events encouraging residents to safely dispose of their medication, through safe envelopes or take back programs within the stores.

**DEA Authorizes Disposal of Unused Controlled Substances**

On October 2014, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) finalized its regulations to provide additional options for consumer disposal of unused controlled substances. Under the regulations, entities which are DEA registered and authorized, may voluntarily establish programs for safe disposal of controlled substances. The DEA regulations allow a number of registrants including drug manufacturers, wholesalers/distributors, reverse distributors, pharmacies, hospitals/clinics with onsite pharmacies to establish disposal programs including mail back, take back events and collection receptacles. Currently CT has not updated State regulations to mirror the Federal ones, and disposal of pharmaceuticals is not allowable.

Because there are a number of different ways pharmacies can serve the public in safe disposal of medication, safety and security concerns are our top priority and may prevent some locations from being viable drop off spots. It is for this reason we feel CT should allow pharmacies to enter into these programs, but only on a voluntary basis. Other Northeastern States, NY, VT, NH, & MA, that have enacted similar legislation, have also done so on a voluntary basis. Maintaining flexibility for pharmacies that wish

to engage in a program will ensure they meet with the proper safety and success. It is for this reason we oppose mandatory take back of prescription drugs, but would like to work with the committee to support a voluntary measure.